

## **First Chapter Begins in Eastbourne's 150,000 Year Story**

Work has begun on the first chapter in The Story of Eastbourne, as Heritage Eastbourne create a brand new exhibition covering 150,000 years of the town's incredible history.

Opening next February in the newly refurbished former shop unit in Victoria Mansions, the new exhibition will for the first time tell the story of Eastbourne through the eyes of the real people who lived it, as well as providing an information hub for heritage.

The exhibition, which will run for two years, will test the water for a more permanent facility, with residents, visitors and school groups helping to shape what a future museum could look like.

Ranging from pre-history to present day, the three dimensional timeline will tell the story of Eastbourne through the eyes of past ancestors, starting with the Iron Age lady and child, discovered during excavations in Kings Drive just a couple of years ago, and the world renowned Beachy Head woman.

From an ancient elephants tooth unearthed in Eastbourne to a piece of real Roman floor, some of the Heritage team's vast collection of artefacts will be on display, along with interactive exhibits, child-friendly activities and significant past discoveries, all of which tell the story of human settlement in the area.

Eastbourne Borough Council Lead Cabinet Member for Tourism and Enterprise, Cllr Margaret Bannister said "This is great news for the town and a positive step towards eventually creating a permanent museum telling the story of Eastbourne. Our story is actually far older than most people imagine — who knew that ancient elephants once grazed through Terminus Road!

Although we are conveying 150,000 of history, we are really just scratching the surface of the town's unique story and this exhibition is just a taster of what we hope may be to come."

Creating a new heritage hub, members of the Heritage Eastbourne team will be on hand to answer any local history questions and suggestions of sites to visit, as well as recording anecdotes from those who have their own interesting story of Eastbourne to tell.

The Story of Eastbourne is due to open next year on 16 February 2019 with free entry, opening six days a week from Tuesday to Sunday, and daily in school holidays during term time, Mondays will welcome pre-booked groups and school visits, with additional workshop space nearby.

For more information visit [www.heritageeastbourne.co.uk](http://www.heritageeastbourne.co.uk)